



## DEVOTIONAL TIME

03-23-2015 @ 0900

**"Do You Actually Believe Prayer Works?"**

Daniel 2:14-19

### **This Is the Day!**

This is the Day! This is the Day that the Lord has made...that the Lord has made!

We will rejoice! We will rejoice, and be glad in it...and be glad in it!

This is the Day that the Lord has made! We will rejoice, and be glad in it!

This is the Day! This is the Day that the Lord has made!

### **Daniel 2:14-19**

"Then Daniel went to Arioch, commander of the king's bodyguard, who had been ordered to carry out the execution. Choosing his words carefully, he asked Arioch why the king had issued such a harsh order. So Arioch told Daniel what had happened. Daniel went at once and obtained royal permission for more time, so that he could tell the king what the dream meant. Then Daniel went home and told his friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. He told them to pray to the God of Heaven for mercy, and to ask Him to explain the mystery to them, so that they would not be killed along with the other advisers in Babylon. Then that same night, the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision, and he praised the God of Heaven!"

### **QUESTIONS FOR TODAY**

- Have you ever allowed a "burst of bad news" to throw you into such a panic you suddenly found yourself "out of airspeed, altitude, and ideas" all at the same time?
- Not knowing "where to turn" or "what to do next", how did you "look for rescue" from some of the "likely sources of support" you could access? (Was "Prayer" among your tactics?)
- What did you make of the "annoying" witness of a believer who faced "disaster", "terror", or "crisis" with unnerving calm by "narrowing down the problem" and then "praying about it"?

How easily a "normal day" turns suddenly tragic and gloomy when a phone call/text/e-mail brings some unexpected, horrible news. It only gets worse when you shared it with a fellow believer who immediately suggests, "Let's pray about it!" This crisis just "rocked your world", with irresistible forces and indescribable anguish. Now this "disciple" advises, "Let's bring this to the Lord!" Do we find such "support" inspiring...or aggravating? Could it be that we just don't fully understand "prayer" as vital, vibrant contact with a living God, whose Love is eternal, whose Fidelity is enduring, whose Wisdom is boundless, and whose Power is limitless? If we haven't engaged such "contact" very often, or with much devotion, is it any wonder that it still seems a bit foreign to us? Now notice how Daniel stays calm when informed he and his friends face immanent execution. Instead of panicking, he simply asks why the king would react so harshly. Once he gets the full story, he knows what to do. Pray!... but not alone; he calls on his friends and gets them praying, too. Note also that Daniel doesn't ask them to pray that God inform *him*, but rather them, so that they would not be killed. He knows prayer works, but leaves its "answer" up to God, who is free to choose the "revealer of mystery". God, grant us the Grace of "Working Prayer". When our world suddenly "turns against us", turn us to "deep prayer" that opens our minds to Your Truth, and encourages our hearts with Your Love! Teach us to engage other "prayer warriors" in our struggle, and show us anew what united prayer can release of the Graces You long to share! Daniel demonstrated that "prayer works if we work it"! (So did Your own Son!) Now guide us in the "all-in" devotion that addresses every need to Your Praise & Glory!